



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 204

LCO No. 4119



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

***AN ACT PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZENS FROM SEXUAL
OFFENDERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 54-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes,
4 except subdivisions (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection, the registry
5 maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
6 Protection shall be a public record and shall be accessible to the public
7 during normal business hours. The Department of Emergency Services
8 and Public Protection shall make registry information available to the
9 public through the Internet. Not less than once per calendar quarter,
10 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
11 issue notices to all print and electronic media in the state regarding the
12 availability and means of accessing the registry. Each local police
13 department and each state police troop shall keep a record of all
14 registration information transmitted to it by the Department of
15 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and shall make such
16 information accessible to the public during normal business hours.

17 (2) (A) Any state agency, the Judicial Department, any state police
18 troop or any local police department may, at its discretion, notify any
19 government agency, private organization or individual of registration
20 information when such agency, said department, such troop or such
21 local police department, as the case may be, believes such notification
22 is necessary to protect the public or any individual in any jurisdiction
23 from any person who is subject to registration under section 54-251,
24 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254.

25 (B) [(1)] Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or
26 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's address and notifies
27 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such
28 change pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the
29 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by
30 electronic mail, notify (i) the superintendent of schools for the school
31 district, (ii) the chief executive officer of the municipality, and (iii) the
32 senior center director in the municipality in which the registrant
33 resides, or plans to reside, of such release or new address, and provide
34 such superintendent, chief executive officer and senior center director
35 with the same registry information for such registrant that the
36 department makes available to the public through the Internet under
37 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

38 [(2) Whenever a registrant is released into the community, or
39 whenever a registrant changes such registrant's address and notifies
40 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such
41 change pursuant to section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the
42 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall, by
43 electronic mail, notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in
44 which the registrant resides, or plans to reside, of such release or new
45 address, and provide such chief executive officer with the same
46 registry information for such registrant that the department makes
47 available to the public through the Internet under subdivision (1) of
48 this subsection.]

49 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of

50 this subsection, state agencies, the Judicial Department, state police
51 troops and local police departments shall not disclose the identity of
52 any victim of a crime committed by a registrant or treatment
53 information provided to the registry pursuant to sections 54-102g and
54 54-250 to 54-258a, inclusive, except to government agencies for bona
55 fide law enforcement or security purposes.

56 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of
57 this subsection, registration information the dissemination of which
58 has been restricted by court order pursuant to section 54-255 and
59 which is not otherwise subject to disclosure, shall not be a public
60 record and shall be released only for law enforcement purposes until
61 such restriction is removed by the court pursuant to said section.

62 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of
63 this subsection, a registrant's electronic mail address, instant message
64 address or other similar Internet communication identifier shall not be
65 a public record, except that the Department of Emergency Services and
66 Public Protection may release such identifier for law enforcement or
67 security purposes in accordance with regulations adopted by the
68 department. The department shall adopt regulations in accordance
69 with chapter 54 to specify the circumstances under which and the
70 persons to whom such identifiers may be released including, but not
71 limited to, providers of electronic communication service or remote
72 computing service, as those terms are defined in section 54-260b, and
73 operators of Internet web sites, and the procedure therefor.

74 (6) When any registrant completes the registrant's term of
75 registration or is otherwise released from the obligation to register
76 under section 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 or 54-254, the Department of
77 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall notify any state police
78 troop or local police department having jurisdiction over the
79 registrant's last reported residence address that the person is no longer
80 a registrant, and the Department of Emergency Services and Public
81 Protection, state police troop and local police department shall remove
82 the registrant's name and information from the registry.

83 (b) Neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state nor
 84 any officer or employee thereof, shall be held civilly liable to any
 85 registrant by reason of disclosure of any information regarding the
 86 registrant that is released or disclosed in accordance with subsection
 87 (a) of this section. The state and any political subdivision of the state
 88 and, except in cases of wanton, reckless or malicious conduct, any
 89 officer or employee thereof, shall be immune from liability for good
 90 faith conduct in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (2) of
 91 subsection (a) of this section.

92 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner on Aging, in
 93 consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
 94 Protection, the Connecticut Elder Justice Coalition Coordinating
 95 Council, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. and the Office
 96 of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, shall develop an informational
 97 campaign to expand best practices to protect senior citizens from
 98 sexual offenders. Such campaign shall be directed toward senior
 99 centers, and shall, within available resources: (1) Provide information
 100 about the availability of public information regarding violent sexual
 101 offenders pursuant to section 54-252 of the general statutes; (2)
 102 encourage senior centers to work with local law enforcement to
 103 develop security plans to protect senior citizens from sexual offenders;
 104 and (3) provide informational resources and training opportunities to
 105 raise awareness among senior citizens about how to protect themselves
 106 from sexual assault and how to report such crimes or threats to commit
 107 such crimes. Not later than January 1, 2016, the commissioner shall
 108 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 109 statutes, on the progress of the informational campaign to the joint
 110 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 111 matters relating to aging. For purposes of this section, "senior citizens"
 112 means persons sixty years of age and older.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	54-258
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Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
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AGE *Joint Favorable*

PS *Joint Favorable*

APP *Joint Favorable*